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WEEKLY CRUSAIDER

Vol. 4, No. 3 December 6, 1963

The WEEKLY CRUSAIDER is published weekly by Christian Crusade, Tulsa 2, Oklahoma. Editor-In-Chief: Dr. Billy James Hargis; Managing Editor: Julian Williams. Subscription Rate: \$10.00 annually. Second-Class Postage Paid at Tulsa, Oklahoma. Circulation 2835.

Additional copies of the WEEKLY CRUSAIDER are available at 25¢ each, 12 for \$2.00, 50 for \$5.00. For larger quantities, write for special discount prices. Order from Christian Crusade, Tulsa 2, Oklahoma.



"REFLECTIONS ON THE DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT"

Billy James Hargis

This article is being written on Monday afternoon, November 25, at 3:00 p.m. It was seventy-four hours ago that the President, John F. Kennedy, was assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

INTRODUCTION

I had flown to San Diego, California, from Tulsa early Friday morning, November 22 (the day of President Kennedy's assassination), to direct an eight-hour Radio Marathon over XERB, San Diego that night at 10:00 p.m., and to begin a three-weeks speaking tour of California, Arizona, and New Mexico. It was to have started Sunday, November 24, with a rally in San Diego.

I had to change planes in Los Angeles. My Western Airlines flight had just left the International Airport in Los Angeles, and had flown out over the Pacific Ocean to begin its turn to San Diego, when the Captain announced on the plane's public address system: "We have bad news for you. The President of the United States has just been shot." Within a matter of a few minutes the Captain announced: "The President of the United States, John Kennedy, has just died."

The shock of this terrifying announcement paralyzed everyone aboard the airplane, as it did millions and millions of other Americans in the same moment. Utter disbelief was written on every face. My first thought, like that of everyone, was "Who? — Why? — How?" Over and over again, these questions burned my mind and my lips.

Upon arrival, I went immediately to the El Cortez Hotel, wrote a statement for the press, called the radio station and cancelled the Marathon, contacted our Public Relations Department in Tulsa to cancel the tour, and made arrangements to return to Tulsa yet that afternoon. After prayer in my hotel room, I made these decisions.

Then, I turned on the television set and sat transfixed before it, hearing and seeing the awful happenings in Dallas, and their aftermath. I was numb with shock.

But not for long. I switched the TV set to another channel, the local NBC affiliate, and the first thing I heard was Bill Ryan of NBC-TV News, blaming the conservatives of Dallas

for the death of the president! He read a news release, which NBC had just received from Moscow, as if it were a factual presentation of what had happened. Of course, the Moscow release would blame the "right-wingers" in Dallas for assassinating the President. But, for an American to countenance such an accusation was unbelievable!

It will be difficult for me ever to forgive Bill Ryan for the unfair and biased manner in which he handled his remarks about the conservatives in Dallas. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that Bill Ryan, without benefit of evidence, had judged the right-wing guilty of the death of President Kennedy. And as I watched him over the past week-end, I have the feeling that he is trying to justify his original rash and snap judgment, which has been proven to be entirely wrong. Time after time, he has continued to try to indict the right wing as being "jointly" responsible for the assassination of the President. May God forgive these men for their hatred of patriotic Americans who wish nothing more than to save this country for our children's sake.

Then, out of the shock and disbelief, a terrible fear gripped my heart. Within one hour after the President had been shot in broad daylight on a Dallas street, anti-communists had already been accused of the crime, without a shred of evidence! My mind went back to the books I had read on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and how innocent men and women, who had nothing in common with John Wilkes Booth except a brief, passing acquaintance, were murdered and destroyed in a wave of terror and anarchy which followed. As an anti-communist leader, I know only too well the viciousness of "managed news" and global thought-control. I knew that even the THOUGHT of this dastardly deed should be committed by even a so-called anti-communist could be used as a psychological front to suppress all freedom of speech and to take our country into an absolute dictatorship. 11-26-64

From the terrible insults and abuse which I personally suffered the last two years at the hands of the ~~left-wing~~ press, it was frightening to imagine what these men would do if they could brainwash the public into believing that this heinous crime was a product of the right-wing. I thought of

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the thousands of people ... myself who had dedicated themselves to protecting "due process of law" and to preserving our Constitutional concepts, and how this long labor, and its penalty of personal abuse and misunderstanding, would be in vain if the American public accepted this lie before the true facts were known. It would begin a witch hunt that would exceed all similar actions in history.

These thoughts brought me out of my state of shock, and propelled me into action — into the same action that each emergency in my life has prompted. I fell on my knees and asked God's guidance and His will in the matter, for this was another crisis where I needed higher counsel than any human can provide. I prayed aloud to God, blotting out the raucous sounds of the television, ignoring the telephone in my room, which had begun to ring as I began to pray. I got my answer. I received the blessed assurance I sought. Then, I sat down and prepared the following statement, and sent it to the newspapers, wire services, radio and television:

"I have never been so shocked in all my life as I am today over the death of President Kennedy. Out of respect for our President, I am cancelling our eight-hour radio broadcast I had planned for tonight on XERB; also, I am cancelling my California, Arizona and New Mexico speaking tour which was to start here in San Diego Sunday. I am going home to contact our Christian Crusade friends across the nation to inaugurate a month of prayer for this nation. Only God can save us now."

"Many people did not agree with the political philosophies of Mr. Kennedy, including myself, but the American tradition is to solve your differences with the free vote, not by going beyond the law and performing such a satanic act as that which has happened today.

"The thing that happened in Dallas is repulsive to every Bible-believing Christian in this country. And, in a time of emotional stress like this, we should be driven to our knees seeking the will of God out of this confusion. I know that's what I'm going to do. I'm going to pray for this country . . . for our new President, Mr. Johnson, and for the family of Mr. Kennedy. (Also, I'm going to pray that God will have mercy on this assassin and that he may be brought to quick justice.)

"This is no time for falling apart as a nation, but is a time for united action in prayer to preserve this union of states as a free and independent nation."

Then I sat back down to watch and listen as the minute-by-minute developments were flashed over television. And I, like over one hundred million other Americans, watched the arrest of Lee Oswald — and within minutes, heard him identified as a known Communist sympathizer — and then as a hard-core defector!

Now, I thought, America knew the answer to "How — Who — and WHY!" Now, I thought, Moscow's charge of right-wing influence on the assassination would be stilled. And then my heart stood still! Over the television came the smearing words of the newscaster, refusing to acknowledge Oswald's connection with the murder — now that he had been identified as a Communist! My fear returned, but this time, mingled with indignation and anger — and I know that millions of patriotic, conservative Christians felt as I did, at that moment.

It may be difficult for my readers to understand my fear upon hearing the right-wing accused of participation in President Kennedy's death. May I assure you, as one who has gone

through a hate campaign directed at me by the liberals and left-wing element, and having seen the degree to which they will go to destroy anyone who stands in their way, my heart told me that their hatred knew no limitation and their vengeance knows no bounds.

I know — and you know — that no true conservative in the United States would stoop to taking the law into his own hands. I know — and you know — that any man who would assassinate the President of the United States, in these days when we still have "due process of law," would not be a conservative or a patriot, but an anarchist. I hold them in the same contempt that I hold the communists or any man who would go beyond the law to achieve an end. In my thinking, the end never justifies the means.

Conservatives stand for law. We preach obedience to the law. For that reason, we opposed the racial demonstrators who took the law into their own hands and carried on racial agitations, defying state and local laws, without regard to "due process of law." My main criticism of the racial agitators is the fact that they have no regard for the law — that they go beyond the law in an emotional period of American history to accomplish their end. No American — no minority group — no majority group — can ever justify breaking the law or circumventing the law to accomplish their self-justified goals.

You would have to lead an Anti-Communist Movement to know what the liberals are capable of — the hatred, incriminations, intimidations and coercion they constantly throw at the leaders of the anti-communist cause. I cannot describe adequately the heartache and persecution heaped upon any leader of an anti-communist movement by the liberal left-wing. With unlimited finances, and being in control of the national media — television, radio and publications — they can destroy a man without any shrug of conscience or regard for "due process of law." It is this lawless spirit that is preached by the communists, and practiced by far too many liberals whom we oppose. I knew from the moment of prayer in a hotel room in San Diego that no conservative had done that awful thing — that it was someone on the left, undoubtedly a communist, but how could we convince the American people, unless he was apprehended and the case was proven?

Sick at heart, but determined to abide in the strength I had found in prayer, I flew back to Tulsa that Friday night. Some of my associates at Christian Crusade were waiting for me at the airport when my plane landed at midnight, and at my home, we talked into the night about the great tragedy that had befallen the land, and about what Christian Crusade could offer in leadership to a bewildered, frightened people.

Of this, I am certain: the revelation, within one hour of the President's death, that Lee Oswald, a communist, had killed the President of the United States, was the only thing that saved the leaders of the anti-communist movements of the United States. Indeed, I praise God that the Dallas Police Department apprehended the true assassin within a matter of minutes after the death of the President, or there would have been other senseless killings of innocent men before the day was over, due to the virulent agitation and dishonest propaganda dispensed by the left-wing television commentators.

Taking their cue from the parrotings of these frantic, fanatic truth-twisters, the "vocal" so-called leaders of communities all over the land took up the hue and cry, unthinking in some cases, calculated in others. Within a matter of hours, liberal after liberal, including Protestant clergymen, Jewish rabbis, and even a member of the Supreme Court, Earl War-

ren, had denounced the "bigots, fanatics, freight peddlers," which even the wire services by that time interpreted as meaning the "right-wing." No one thought of *left-wing* bigots, fanatics and freight-peddlers — which number into the multiplied millions. I could not help but think, as I read Earl Warren's remarks in the paper and heard him on television, what qualifications does this man have for being a justice in the United States Supreme Court? No judge condemns a man before the evidence is brought in. It is a part of the "due process of law."

On my way back to Tulsa, on a rest stop in El Paso, Texas, I picked up the Friday, November 22, El Paso Herald Post. On the front page it quotes County Judge Glen Woodward as saying, "This is a bitter blow to our nation, a thing that casts shame and sorrow over the country. We know that the so-called fair-right, the super-patriots have created much ugly feeling in Dallas, but no one dreamed such a thing as this would actually happen. I am too shocked to talk very much right now. I can only say that those who have encouraged hatred among our people are to blame."

The question in my mind and my heart then and today is, why didn't these men, before they formed an opinion, wait for the evidence to be brought in? Why didn't they at least consider the fact that it might have been a communist who shot the President? Anti-communists or conservatives are not known for going beyond the law. Instead, they are known as a patriotic group that loves the law of the land and that is dedicated to upholding it. Why didn't these officials, especially judges, practice what they preach, that a man or a group of men are innocent until proven guilty? Why were they so anxious to hang the blame on the conservative movement of the United States? Did they really think that the conservatives of America were capable of such a satanic crime as assassinating the President of the United States? If they thought they were, then it shows their utter ignorance of the aims and objectives of the conservative movement of the United States.

After three days of reflection, much thought, meditation and a lot of prayer, I have gleaned the following facts. These are my thoughts, as I said, written only seventy-four hours after the death of the President. It is possible, of course, that events in the next few days will alter some of my thoughts. But, as of today, I wish to go on record as to what I, as a minister of the Gospel and an American anti-communist, feel concerning the death of our President.

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY IS A TRAGIC THING

The assassination of our President is a tragic thing. I have not always agreed with President Kennedy, but I could never, under any circumstances, condone or tolerate any movement that would use force and violence as a means to accomplish an end. Mr. Kennedy had many critics. Senator Goldwater was one, Governor Nelson Rockefeller was one, former Vice-President Nixon was one, former President Eisenhower was one. In his own party he had many opponents. Senator Strom Thurmond was one and even in recent days, ultra liberal Senator Wayne Morris was another in his sharp criticism of the President's foreign aid program. President Kennedy deserved much better than to die at the hands of an assassin. If one does not like an elected official, there is only one way to remove him and that is by free elections. No man can ever justify assuming the responsibility of judge and jury and then executing the decision. Assassinations in a free society can never be justified, let alone tolerated.

Whatever criticism I had of Mr. Kennedy is in the past. I do not intend to resurrect it. He gave his life while on service for his country. As far as I am concerned, he deserves the same tribute and honor as any soldier who died for his land on the foreign field.

Mr. Kennedy was not just the President of the liberals and members of his Democrat Party who agreed with him. Instead, he was the President of all America. I wrote him that once. I stated: "You are my President, too. You are the President of the conservatives as well as the liberals." The enemy has killed our President. We are startled that our enemy would be so brave and so satanically successful right within our own midst. I think every American has shed tears over the assassination of our President.

It was the honor of the United States that was attacked. All of our ideals in history, the grandeur of our past and the hope of our future, these were all attacked when a cowardly communist assassin drove a bullet into the head of John F. Kennedy.

We mourned as a nation. Our heart as a people went out to Mrs. Kennedy and his family. We forgot our differences. We stood as one man in disbelief that an enemy of our country could be so bezen within our midst.

More than once this weekend I have been driven to Psalms 121: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth . . . The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore." And, again I have found great personal comfort in Psalms 46: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea . . . God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved. God shall help her, and that right early . . . Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."

It is ironical that it would take the death of the President of the United States to drive our leaders back to the Bible in search of comfort and direction from the Heavenly Father. The death of our President has made all Americans more God-conscious. May the Spiritual hush that descended over this nation since the death of our elected leader not disappear with the commercialism of Christmas. But, instead, may we retain this closeness to God and this dependence upon His Holy Spirit. For with this Divine aid and help, we will survive as a free and independent nation, but without Him, we will fail.

Indeed, God may well look upon this tragic event as the action that will bring us back to our knees in repentance and faith.

Today I have read anew the poem "Ultima Veritas" by Washington Gladden, which has brought me great solace. I reprint it here so that you, too, may share its inspiration.

"In the bitter waves of woe,
Beaten and tossed about
By the sullen winds that blow
From the desolate shores of doubt,
While the anchors that faith had cast
Are dragging in the gale,
I am greatly holding fast
To the things that cannot fail:

I know that it is right;
That it is not good to lie;
That love is better than spite,
And a neighbor than a spy;

In the darkest night of the year,
When the stars have all gone out,
That courage is better than fear,
And faith is truer than doubt;

And fierce tho the fiends may fight,
And long tho the angels hide,
I know that truth and right
Have the universe on their side;

And that somewhere, beyond the stars,
Is a love that is better than fate;
When the night unlocks her bars
I shall see HIM and I can wait."

History records that it was the assassination of President James A. Garfield that actually preserved the Union of States. For fifteen years after the Civil War, there was still division between the North and South. It took the death of a beloved President to break down the barriers and unite the Nation. When James A. Garfield was laid low by the hand of an assassin, it was said: "Guiteau's bullet, in the mercy of Providence, has done more to make us a nation than has been accomplished in all the years past since 1850. There is no longer any South, North, East or West. We are all brothers; all filled with a common purpose. There is already a warmer feeling, a greater respect among Republicans for Democrats, a stronger sympathy among Democrats for Republicans, a more perfect political charity, a more magnificent brotherhood." Who knows what the outcome of this tragic assassination of last week will be? Maybe again God will use the assassination of a President to awaken our patriotic conscience and unify our people in an uncompromising war against communism internally and internationally.

THAT COURAGEOUS DALLAS POLICEMAN

At a time when the entire nation mourns the passing of the President, we should all remember the family of Police Patrolman J. D. Tippit of the Dallas Police Department, whose courage and valor is directly responsible for the apprehension of the Communist assassin, Lee Oswald. Only thirty-nine years of age, this courageous patrolman gave his life attempting to arrest the assassin, as Oswald sought to escape.

Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry said of his courage, "except for Tippit's action — which led police to Oswald — the accused slayer might have escaped the country."

Actually, no one suffered a greater loss than the Tippit family. Our prayers and Christian benevolence should go out to this bereaved family.

At this point, may I further suggest that every Crusader friend write Police Chief Jesse Curry and the Dallas Police Department, thanking them for their quick and successful apprehension of the communist assassin. At a time when the liberal press of our nation, along with the communist press of the Iron Curtain countries, is lambasting the Dallas Police, a letter of simple thanks from the patriots of this nation for the Dallas police department's clear-headed and effective action at a time of crisis and extreme emotional pressure, would be indeed fitting.

THE NATION "L SURVIVE"

The thing we must all remember is that in spite of this heartbreaking and national tragedy, the Union will survive. When Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, many thought America died with the President when the assassin's bullet plowed into his heart in the Ford Theater in Washington on April 14, 1865. However, James A. Garfield, Congressman who would later himself be assassinated while serving as President, assured a large and discouraged crowd which gathered on Wall Street in New York City the morning after the assassination of Lincoln, that the Union would survive even that tragedy. He said, "Fellow citizens, clouds and darkness are round about Him. Christ's pavilion is dark waters and thick clouds of the sky. Justice and judgment are the establishment of Christ's throne. Mercy and truth shall go before His face. Fellow citizens, God reigns and the government in Washington still lives." This assurance from a man who would later become the President of the United States so inspired the assembled crowd that their fears were forgotten and the nation moved forward.

OUR NEW PRESIDENT, LYNDON B. JOHNSON

The United States has a new President. His name is Lyndon Baines Johnson. Mr. Johnson is a Westerner, hailing from Johnson City, Texas. I know many men who know President Johnson personally. Prior to the Democrat Convention in Los Angeles in 1960, H. L. Hunt, the conservative leader of Dallas, Texas, urged the nomination of the then Senator Lyndon B. Johnson on the Democratic ticket for the Presidency of the United States. Mr. Hunt accompanied Senator Johnson to the Democrat Convention in Los Angeles. I remember Mr. Hunt calling me one night while I was visiting in Winona Lake, Indiana. He told me that he personally knew Lyndon Johnson and felt him to be the most conservative of all the candidates seeking the office of the Presidency and he urged me to throw whatever personal influence I had behind the campaign for Senator Johnson. I must admit I did not then share Mr. Hunt's enthusiasm for Lyndon Johnson. However, it is my sincere hope at this moment that H. L. Hunt's appraisal of Lyndon Johnson was correct and that Mr. Johnson will return our nation to Constitutional concepts.

A LOOK AT THE ASSASSIN, LEE OSWALD

The man who shot the President of the United States, Lee Oswald, was, as you know by now, a communist. There is no doubt that Marxist Oswald shot the President of the United States after deliberately planning it for weeks prior to the President's visit in Dallas, Texas. Furthermore, there is no doubt that communist Oswald hoped to assassinate the President and make a clean get-away, thus blaming it on the anti-communists or the conservative right-wing in the United States. But, again, thanks be to God, this evil man did not get by with his satanic scheme.

Time alone will determine whether or not Lee Oswald was acting under orders of the Kremlin, where he had lived for some time, or under orders of Castro, whom he had served faithfully since Castro's rise to power. Personally, knowing the communists' dedication and their scheme to overthrow the free world and yet without any evidence except that which I have read in the paper and heard on television, I am convinced that Oswald was acting under orders of a higher communist authority — that the assassination of the President of the United States was not the insane ambitions of one Marxist, but instead, was a well-calculated plan. No one could have studied communism for any length of time without coming

to this conclusion — no communist does anything on his own. He waits for orders, and, like a robot, he obeys.

All of the hypocritical denials of Khrushchev and Castro of collusion with Oswald on the slaying of President Kennedy do not sway my thinking. Knowing the communist plans and objectives as I do, I am convinced, although it may be hidden for eternity from the public, that there was a collusion between the heads of the communist world and Lee Oswald.

Oswald had been born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. In recent years he lived in Fort Worth, Irving, and Dallas, Texas. Four years ago he turned up in Moscow, renounced his American citizenship and asked for Russian citizenship. After awhile Oswald asked the United States Embassy in Moscow to let him return to the United States. There was no break with communism whatsoever since he resumed his communist activities on the street corners in New Orleans immediately upon arriving there. The irony is that our Embassy actually loaned Oswald \$450.00 so he could return to the United States with his Russian wife. It is little wonder then that Senator John Tower of Texas has ordered an investigation into why our Moscow Embassy loaned Oswald the money to return to the United States.

As I said, within a matter of days he was distributing anti-American and pro-Castro literature on the corners of New Orleans. In the summer of 1962, on a radio debate in that city, he admitted he was a communist. His activities in New Orleans were on behalf of the New Orleans chapter of Fair Play for Cuba, of which he was an officer.

In March of this year Oswald ordered, by mail, a high-powered rifle from a Chicago mail order firm. He received the rifle under an assumed name which he was using at that time in Dallas, Texas. The rifle arrived late in March. It was on April 10 that someone fired a similar rifle at the head of General Edwin A. Walker at his Dallas residence, 4011 Turtle Creek. On the day of the President's assassination last Friday, Dallas police, according to the Dallas Morning News, were "not overlooking a possibility that President Kennedy's assassin . . . Lee Oswald," may have been the mystery sniper who shot at General Walker. And, yet, it is interesting to note that not a single television commentator pointed this out on their television presentations. The fact that it might have been Lee Oswald who shot at General Walker was not even discussed on the television programs on the three major networks.

It is interesting, further, to note that Lee Oswald requested a known pro-communist attorney in New York City by the name of John Apt to defend him. It must have hit Oswald hard when Apt responded to the news sources that he was unable to help Oswald because of "the press of other clients." There was every reason to believe that Lee Oswald would ultimately break, and since it is my theory that there is a connection between Oswald and Castro, at least, he would have probably exposed an international conspiracy or linked others who had participated in the planning of the heinous crime.

Consequently, Lee Oswald had to be shot. I am not suggesting here that Jack Rubystein, who assassinated Lee Harvey Oswald, was a communist. But, I am suggesting it could serve only the cause of communism to assassinate Lee Oswald. It was the best break the Kremlin could have asked for. As the Tulsa Tribune, Monday, November 25, 1963, pointed out: "If Lee Harvey Oswald had been fairly tried and convicted of the President's murder the embarrassment for international communism would have been intense. Now, the

whole communist world is shouting that it was a gigantic frame — that a Red was charged and then promptly murdered because the American government knew it couldn't convict him. Millions are going to believe that. Thus, not only is our President dead, but the ideology that probably killed him has a new excuse for self-righteousness."

When the President of the Dallas Bar Association, a Mr. Nichole, asked Lee Oswald if he wanted legal help, he asked for John Apt, who as I said, refused to help him. Then he said if he couldn't get John Apt, he would take any lawyer affiliated with the American Civil Liberties Union. One television reporter commented that Oswald said: "I am a member of the ACLU." The ACLU, which stands for the American Civil Liberties Union, is a group of lawyers and liberals, for the most part, who in many instances have defended communists and subversives, insisting that these "characters" should have freedom of speech in our society, to sow their deadly poison.

WHAT IS THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA?

Another interesting postscript to this whole sordid story is that the television networks did not identify the organization for which Lee Oswald worked, Fair Play for Cuba. Not once on any of the major television networks did I see any report on the activities of Fair Play for Cuba. One of the reasons they had to refrain from reporting on this group, apparently, was that one of their former colleagues in CBS Television is the head of this group of which Oswald was an officer. Robert Taber, formerly with CBS News was the apparent head of the Fair Play for Cuba. Senator Keating, in a speech on Thursday, February 16, 1961, identified Taber as "one of the Committee's founders" and editor of the bulletin for the organization, which is also called "Fair Play." Of this CBS News reporter, Robert Taber, Senator Keating said: "Taber has a distinguished background as a newspaper and radio-TV writer. It is hard to understand why anyone in his position would flee our country and give such undeserved support to its avowed enemies in Cuba. Nevertheless, the only inference that could reasonably be drawn from his continued failure to return would be that he lied during his previous appearance before our Subcommittee and that he functioned as a foreign agent for Cuba in a betrayal of his nation's interest."

Congressman Cramer of St. Petersburg, Florida, went a step further than Senator Keating. In his speech before the House of Representatives, March 15, 1962, Mr. Cramer exposed thoroughly the Fair Play for Cuba group, also how this organization had received additional support from CBS News in news presentations, and criticized the Justice Department for not listing the Fair Play for Cuba Committee as subversive "in spite of overwhelming evidence" to that effect produced at the several "hearings by the Senate Subcommittee."

Another CBS News reporter mixed up with this Fair Play for Cuba, according to Congressman Cramer's report, was Richard Gibson. Gibson testified before a Congressional Committee that during his employment with CBS News, he had occasion to prepare news broadcasts dealing with the Cuban situation — broadcasts which were very friendly to Fidel Castro. Congressman Cramer referred to these programs that were carried by CBS News as an effort to picture "Fidel Castro as a regular salt of the earth."

Christian Crusade has tried for years to expose these organizations on the left. Because of our factual exposures, we

have been smeared and ridiculed by the major television networks and by all of the major national publications, including LIFE, TIME, LOOK, NEWSWEEK and Saturday Evening Post. Had organizations like Christian Crusade been heeded, our President would be alive today, because these organizations we exposed would have been forced, by the Federal Government, to close their operations.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

Who is to blame for the death of the President of the United States? One Episcopal priest in New York City blamed it on "hate groups of the extreme left and right." This priest needs to be reminded that it was a representative of the left who killed the President of the United States and not a representative of the right.

Frankly, I do not understand why men like Richard Nixon and Earl Warren talk glibly about "hate groups being responsible for the death of the President." Since it was a communist who assassinated the President, why don't they come right out and say it was a communist who shot the President? Are they afraid of the word? Are they afraid to face reality? Are they so determined to ignore the facts that they will not be bothered with truth? We ask in vain, it seems, for the answer.

When General Walker and I began our nation-wide speaking tour this Spring, I determined that I was going to get these facts before the American people. (1) the communists were determined to abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities. They were joined in this project by representatives of the National Council of Churches operating in Washington, D. C. We exposed the fact that leaders of the National Council of Churches have been actively lobbying to abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities and should they fail in this, to at least cut back the appropriations for the Committee by Congress.

(2) On our tour I called upon the Justice Department to enforce the law of the land, that is, to arrest those communists who had refused to register as agents of the Soviet Union and put them on trial for treason. This is what the law of the land demands. Under the law, according to action by the United States Supreme Court, the Communist Party was supposed to register as agents of the Soviet Union by November 20, 1961. The officers of the Communist Party were supposed to register by December 1, 1961, and all the members of the Communist Party were supposed to register by December 20, 1961. Although their deadline ran out two years ago, the Justice Department made no arrests or individual indictments of Communist Party members across the country. In fact, on August 24, 1962, the Associated Press carried a report that "A Justice Department official said today no communists have registered with the department under the Internal Security Act of 1950. Thomas K. Hall, Executive Assistant in the Department's Internal Security Division, said only one or two requests for the registration forms had been received and even those may have been from curiosity collectors."

This led Texas Senator John Tower to address a letter to the Justice Department on February 26, 1962, in which he asked why the Department of Justice had failed to prosecute "known communists who did not register in compliance with the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950."

If this law had been enforced by the Department of Justice, our President might still be alive today. Since there was

no doubt in anyone's mind that Lee Harvey Oswald was a communist, having lived in Russia, having renounced his American citizenship and having been arrested for communist activity later in the United States, he would have been arrested, tried, and by this time, jailed, and would not have been free to assassinate the President of the United States. So, then, the failure of government officials, whoever has the responsibility to enforce the law, is responsible, in part, for the death of the President of the United States.

The failure of American leaders in the realm of religion, politics and education to back the Federal Government's investigations into communism and actions against communism makes these leaders also to blame for the death of our President. The Federal Government cannot operate in any field where there is not public support. Investigations into communism and prosecution of communists have been discouraged by the leaders of the American community for the last ten years. Consequently, the door was left open for the enemy within to continue his sinister planning, including the assassination of the President of the United States.

THE ATTEMPT TO SMEAR THE RIGHT WING

It is apparent from the very beginning, as I have said before, that several of the extremely liberal television commentators were going to try to indict the right wing or conservative element of the United States for the assassination of the President. I have mentioned Bill Ryan of NBC Television. I would also include in this category Edward P. Morgan of the ABC Television Network and Frank McGee of the NBC Television Network. It is hard to imagine a more biased and unfair trio of newsmen than these. Letters of protest should be sent to the television networks concerning the biased manner in which these men and others handled the news relative to the assassination of the President.

After watching the television coverage of this sad event from the time I returned to Tulsa until today, I must confess that the fairest presentation of the facts about the assassination was by Walter Cronkite of CBS News. It was apparent that he had no truck with Lee Harvey Oswald or any communist. He reported, as any good American would report, that Oswald was a leftist. He consistently pointed out that in no way could you blame any anti-communist conservative for this thing but that the blame must all lie at the door of the left-wing.

At this point I would like to quote from the Tulsa World of Monday, November 25, an editorial which said: "In the first few hours after the death of John F. Kennedy some strange thinking in our country was exposed to public view. The assassin's bullet had hardly been fired before some people were leaping to the conclusion that the finger on the trigger belonged to the 'radical right.' In far too many places the reaction was to the effect that those right-wing extremists in Dallas had struck again. It must have been almost a disappointment to these snap judgment accusers that the prime suspect turned out to be not a radical conservative but in fact a 'Fair Play for Castro' extremist on the left. When the news of the Dallas shooting was broadcast in Moscow the Russian people were informed, without any factual basis, that right-wing extremists were believed responsible. From the communists there was every reason to expect this kind of interpretation. News and propaganda are inseparable in the Kremlin. But, we have a right to expect a more reasoned reaction in the U.S.A. Many people disagreed with Mr. Kennedy's political philosophy and policies, as they had a right

to do. This in no way made them less patriotic or entitled them to abuse from the liberal commentators and writers."

Add to this excellent editorial the editorial quoted above from the *Tulsa Tribune* Monday, November 25: "For the presumption that only ultra-conservatives could be guilty of assassinating the President in Dallas was strong, it was perhaps to be expected that Pravda in Moscow immediately accused Texas 'Fascists' of killing the President. But, a number of America's TV commentators, notable for their liberal leaning, immediately began owlishly expressing the pious hope that certain groups were not responsible. Such hopes' are a subtle way of backing into an accusation."

The American people now must demand an apology from the major television networks for the biased handling of the assassination by these ultra-left-wing commentators, with few exceptions. Protests should be sent to the NBC Television Network and also to ABC Television Network, especially. Edward P. Morgan, one of the reporters representing ABC, is an enemy of every conservative, anti-communist cause in this country. He is the paid commentator on the AFL-CIO Radio News show and on every occasion possible he vents his spleen against the anti-communist movements, including Christian Crusade. To let a man like this handle the story as tragic as the assassination of the President, thus giving him a chance to give it the political interpretation that his distorted thinking is capable of, is a crime beyond measure in the annals of fair play and justice.

WHAT HAVE THE LIBERALS LEARNED?

The question now before us is, what have the liberals learned? Have they learned the mistake of their ways, that is, trusting the communists, appeasing the communists, co-existing with the communists? Do they now see the necessity to be firm with communism internally and internationally? Or, have they been so brainwashed by internationalism and peaceful co-existence that they refuse to recognize the reality that a communist shot our President and that it was needless for him to be shot if the communists had only been prosecuted according to the law?

No, I'm afraid that most of our liberals will not gain this very obvious lesson. Instead, they are going to work on the "gun registration laws." Unbelievable, yet true. As a part of the disarmament package there is a provision to destroy all private weapons in the United States. Our Constitution provides that citizens have a right to own firearms to protect their families. The disarmament program that was passed by Congress in 1961 was designed to eventually eliminate all of our Armed Forces so that as a sovereign nation we would have no means to protect ourselves. This would also eliminate all weapons owned by private individuals. This law is obviously in direct violation of our Constitution since the Second Amendment to the Bill of Rights stipulates that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed upon." It is a historical fact that most of the centrally-controlled, socialist-inclined European and Balkan countries had gun registration laws before World War II. When the armies of Hitler and Stalin conquered their countries, they acquired these gun registration lists and immediately confiscated all private weapons. This constituted a vital blow to patriotic citizens who were thus severely handicapped from carrying on effective underground movements.

For some time now, the liberals have advocated gun registration laws, that is that all firearms within the city and coun-

try should be registered, the owners of these firearms should be fingerprinted and photographed and there should be a "fee" charged for these services. Some liberals in Los Angeles decided to initiate a gun registration bill that provided for these three things in their city during the mid-1940's. When public hearings on the legislation were called, one of the persons who spoke on behalf of the proposed laws was the Los Angeles Legislative Chairman of the Communist Party. Fortunately, an informed public managed to defeat the bill.

However, you can expect now, since the assassination of the President, that there will be a new clamor to register the guns of the land. The liberals will claim this is the only way we can prevent something similar to what happened last week from happening again. These laws are presumably designed to curb the criminals but they usually succeed in curbing only the Constitutional rights and personal security of honest citizens who own guns. However, we should face the facts. The criminal will not comply to the registration law. He will not go into a store and register or give his name and address. He will not let himself be fingerprinted or photographed, nor will he submit to a cooling off period. The criminal buys his guns on the black market or he steals them. And, if he sells them, burns them or throws them away, he is certainly not going to report it to the authorities. As for restricting the enraged, impulsive killer, if he can't get a gun and is determined to kill, he will do it with a butcher knife, a club, by poison, or by some other means. In other words, only the law-abiding citizen will comply with the law and since he is a responsible person, he poses no threat. But, the red tape and restrictions are an affront to his dignity as a free man.

It is my sincere prayer that this great tragedy of the last few days will not panic the American people into giving up their Constitutional right to own weapons in the event they must defend their homes and lives should a communist dictator overthrow our government.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

I would like to reprint here an editorial which I read today in the *Daily Oklahoman* entitled "Law of the Jungle."

"Americans need to think deeply and coolly about the meaning of the fatal shooting of President Kennedy's assassin by a Dallas nightclub operator.

"It is only human for any of us to think with grim satisfaction, that the assassin died by the same kind of violence he spawned. There's a temptation to say, 'He got just what he deserved.'

"Yes, in terms of our deepest, primitive emotions. But the way in which Lee Oswald was killed is as much of a danger to our way of life as any other taking the law into one's own hands. It's the law of the jungle, not of 20th century America.

"The assassination itself was a violation of every orderly process. The killing of the assassin in this fashion adds more fuel. If a conflagration of violence and lawlessness spreads across America, we could see a virulent epidemic of purge and anti-purge, attack and revenge (remember Germany and Japan in the 1930's?) that would destroy the foundations of our government and our society. It is in such an atmosphere that revolution and assassination are bred.

"History has shown us how the spirit of revenge following the assassination of President Lincoln sowed seeds of disunion and hatred that plague us to this day.

"Now is the time to check, firmly and unitedly, the current spread of hate propaganda."

Personally, I feel this is the same approach to the problem that is confronting us today. We dare not panic, we dare not engage in an illegal witch hunt or unconstitutional recrimination. Instead, we should back our law enforcement bodies of the United States, especially those Congressional Committees that are trying to expose communism, and then we should put pressure on Congress to enact laws that will outlaw communist activity in the United States.

Our President is dead because we have not dealt firmly with the communist threat internally. Don't ever forget that Lee Harvey Oswald would have been among the first to be arrested, had the government rounded up the communists when they failed to register as agents of the Soviet Union, according to the law of the land.

The work of Christian Crusade is so important. We have tried to make the people government-conscious and security-conscious. Apparently we have failed in making the government sufficiently conscious of the communist conspiracy to deal firmly with the internal conspirators in time to save the life of the President. However, I can truthfully say, in spite of the communist inspired persecution and liberal-instigated, immoral smears of the past two years, we have earnestly endeavored to do our best. Educational movements such as Christian Crusade that are designed to tell the people the truth about communism in other countries and to make our people more patriotic-minded, certainly deserve the prayers and support of the American people. Once again these conservative, patriotic forces loom as the hope of America.

We must uphold the law. And, let all conservatives remember we stand for law and order, Christian morals and due process of law. We will never take the law into our own hands; we will never circumvent the law; we will uphold the law; we will dedicate our lives to supporting a society by law and not by emotions. We have laws on our books today sufficient to take care of the communist conspiracy if they are enforced. It is not new legislation that we need, but it is law enforcement that we need. Let us be careful that we obey the law in every detail as humanly possible.

CONCLUSION

We cannot mourn forever. We have lost our President. A communist took his life. We must go forward. We must look to God for strength. Today the ancient advice to the children of Israel as they faced the flood waters of the Red Sea to "stand still and see the salvation of God," has rung in my mind and heart. This is a time to see God perform His mighty miracle. God will lead this country if we will only trust Him. We must look to God for Divine strength for the nation and for us as individuals. We must accept God's will in our lives as a nation and as individuals. We must obey God, support God's cause, the cause of freedom as advocated by Christian Crusade. May God bless America is my prayer.

THE WANDERER

The Hatemongers

In a remarkable address before the Seventh National Convention of the Catholic Youth Organization in New York City on Saturday, November 16th, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover declared *inter alia*:

"Nowhere in recent months have our people faced a more explosive condition of shame and violence than among the hatemongers, the moral degenerates, the lunatic fringe and the other irrational fanatics who preach a doctrine of hostility toward their fellow man. This rabble has sown the dragons' teeth of malice and intimidation, and from the ground has sprung a series of hate-driven riots, bombings and desecrations."

Mr. Hoover clearly pinpointed who, exactly, are the hatemongers. He calls them the "enemies of our Republic." He lists "the crime syndicates, the narcotics peddlers, the labor racketeers, the unscrupulous businessmen, the corrupt politicians, and all others who blatantly defy the laws of the Land." "These are the hatemongers," he says "and the false liberals who would subvert our Constitution and undermine our democratic processes in furtherance of their selfish ends."

And who besides these? Let Mr. Hoover tell us:

"They are the Communists and other subversive elements who wave false banners of legitimacy and patriotism while relentlessly plotting to destroy our heritage of freedom. Communism, in all its forms and in all its variations, is the avowed enemy of liberty and of justice and of God. The Communists FEAR free and independent thought. They FEAR truth. They FEAR God even though they deny Him. They FEAR the inherent courage and dignity of man created in His image."

"Make no mistake about the Communists in this Country," Mr. Hoover continued. "Whether they are members of Soviet bloc diplomatic establishments in New York and Washington, or whether they are fanatical adherents of the Communist Party, U.S.A., all represent the same ideology of treachery, deceit, and subversion." They are, in fact, the principal hatemongers, the disciples of discord, the fomentors of social unrest and civil disturbance. And their growing influence must be clearly recognized and fought, says Mr. Hoover. Logic and decency must speak out in defense of truth. No problem is so acute, no crisis so severe says Mr. Hoover, that the Communist terror can be tolerated in a society of free men in meeting this crisis, "we must look to God for guidance and inspiration." And he continues:

"Do not hesitate to speak out and bring public pressure to bear upon negative influences within your communities. We must never become so accustomed to flinching or so intimidated by the advocates of so-called 'worldly reality' that we fail to revolt against corruption and decay."

"May you always protect America's heritage of freedom. May you, with God's holy guidance, preserve and strengthen that priceless heritage for the generations yet to come."